(iii) Prompt reporting of vacancies to Staff Selection Commission/Union Public Service Commission/ Central Employment Exchange etc. by Central Government Ministries/Departments;

(iv) A Conference of Public Sector Undertakings and concerned Ministries was held on 15.11.2000 in which the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was reviewed and the Public Sector Undertakings have been advised to launch vigorous drive to identify vacancies and recruit persons with disabilities against them; and

(v) Provision of financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges/upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped.

Strike by Cable TV Operators

*65. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cable TV operators recently went on a three day strike against what they called lopsided amendments to and twists given in operation of the Cable T.V. Act;

(b) if so, what were the precise objections regarding the amendments or operation of the Cable TV Act pointed out by them; and

(c) what steps were taken to streamline the operation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cable operators in and around Delhi had gone on a strike on 26th September, 2000 on the issue, *inter-alia*, of liability of adherence to the Programme and Advertising Codes by them, for all the channels being transmitted by them. It was clarified to them that their primary responsibility for compliance with the Broadcast Code is with regard to their own channels. They were also informed that the satellite channels will be primarily responsible for adherence to the Programme and Advertising Code with regard to their channels, and, in case of violations of the Codes by them, the Ministry will notify such channels so that their retransmission can be stopped by the cable operators.

(c) The enforcement of the provisions of the Act and Rules rests primarily with the authorized officers of the State Governments/Union Territories. The above position was intimated to all State Governments / Union Territories with the request that the authorized officers might be advised accordingly so as to avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the cable operators.

Seismic Zone Map to guide structural engineers and architects

*66. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that country has been mapped into five different seismic zones depending on the seismic risk and certain standards including IS 1893 and IS 486 have been put in place to guide structural engineers, developers and the architects to determine the location of the city or an area corresponding to the seismic zone; and

(b) if so, whether the guidelines contained there in are being implemented, and if not so far, whether this will be done now so that damage to dwelling units on account of earthquakes could be contained to a large extent?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines regarding construction of safer houses were communicated to the State Governments in May, 1998. They have also been reminded to comply with these guidelines. This Ministry has subsequently sent telegrams to all States/UTs for early action on the Ministry's advice. The Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is also holding a meeting of all State Ministers concerned with the subject so that the matter could be reviewed at the national level and necessary impetus given for effective follow up action.

In respect of Delhi, a public notice to amend the building bye-laws suitably to conform strictly to the BIS codes/guidelines has since been published.

Other States are expected to take suitable action. The Government would now pursue this matter with the State Governments more vigorously.

ST status to Gaddies and Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

*67. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: